
Opening Welcome*

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Engineering education already has a long tradition in the Hanseatic League city of Wismar. Today's Hochschule Wismar goes back to the founding in 1908 of the then Wismar Engineering Academy, which was intended to serve Wismar's industrial development as a centre of training.

In the last decades of the 19th Century, several large industrial enterprises for machine and carriage construction were established in Wismar. Since 1906, private and commercial motor vehicles have been produced in Wismar. As a result, the need for qualified, technical education has constantly grown.

The industrial structure changed repeatedly and, to a degree, radically in the subsequent decades to the present day. Following machine and automobile manufacture came aeroplane production in the 1930s. Shipbuilding followed in the second half of the 1940s, which also replaced carriage manufacture.

The shipyards are today still the largest employers in the city. However, since the political and economic changes of 1989 and the reunification of Germany, a lot of new industrial businesses have emerged in Wismar. There are, for example, several timber processing plants, which in turn have a new category of requirements for qualified workers and engineers. I am sure that the Hochschule Wismar will also successfully deal with this challenge.



Dr Rosemarie Wilcken

The Hanseatic League city of Wismar combines the lively and bustling living and working together elements of yesterday, today and tomorrow. For centuries, the city has been the economic centre of a large region and has been open and receptive to the world. I am especially pleased that the university and the city are able to host the 2nd *Global Congress on Engineering Education* and I heartily welcome all participants to our city.

*An opening welcome presented at the Opening Ceremony of the 2nd *Global Congress on Engineering Education*, held at Hochschule Wismar, Wismar, Germany, from 2 to 7 July 2000.

